LIBRARY

BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the year

1944.

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

J. G. PALEY M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,

Assistant School Medical Officer.

21st September, 1945.

General Statistics.

Area (in acres)	559
Registrar Generals estimate of resident population 1944.	4.150
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,194
Rateable Value	£25,619
Product of a penny rate.	£98:11: 7¾

Vital Statistics Registrar General's Figures for 1944.

Comparative Table of Birth Rates.

LIVE BIRTHS.

This Area.	Birth Rate.	England & Wales Birth Rate.
Boys 45 Girls 44	21.4 per thousand	17.6 per thousand

STILL BIRTHS.

This Area	Stillbirth Rate	England & Wales Stillbirth Rate.
Boys 1 Girls 1	.048 per thousand	0.50 per thousand.

Comparative Table of Death Rates.

This area		England & Wales.
Deaths of Infants under one year	2	Not given.
Infant Mortality Rate	22 per thousand	Infant Mortality Rate 46 per thousand.

Number of Deaths.

This Area.	Not given.
Males 22 Females 33	
Death Rate (all causes) 13.3 per thousand.	Death Rate (all causes) 11.6 per thousand.

Causes of Death.

Heart Disease	26	Nephritis	2
Intracranial Vascular lesions	4	Premature Birth	1
Other circulatory diseases.	1	Cerebrospinal fever	1
Cancer	3	Whooping Cough	1
Bronchitis	1	Diphtheria	1
Pneumonia	1	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1
Other respiratory diseases	2	Other forms of tuberculosis	1
Appendicitis	1	Acute poliomyetitis	1
Other digestive diseases	1	Other violent causes	2
		All other causes	4
TOTALS	55.		

The crude birth rate shows an increase of 6.6 per thousand compared with the figure for 1943.

The crude death rate shows a fall of 3.0 per thousand, compared with the figure for 1943.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases (Civilian)

	1942	1943	1944
Measles	7	78	16
Whooping Cough	3	4	11
Scarlet Fever	19	21	11
Diphtheria	2	2	3
Pneumonia	7	4	0
Erysipelas	1	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	2
Enteric Fever	1	0	0
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	0	0	4
Anterior Poliomyelitis	0	0	6

Of the 4 cases of cerebrospinal meningitis notified during 1944 the diagnosis of 3 cases was subsequently altered to Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Of the 16 cases of measles notified, the diagnosis of one case was subsequently altered to cerebrospinal meningitis.

Non-Civilian notifications during 1944.

Scarlet Fever	1
Anteria Poliomyelitis	1

Anterior Poliomyelitis. In all, 10 cases including one non-civilian case, were notified as occurring in the district. No deaths occurred amongst these cases. 7 cases, including the non -civilian, made a complete recovery.

In view of the epidemic, the Infants Department of the Church School, and the whole of the R.C. School were closed as from 11th July until end of term.

Children under 9 years, were excluded from attending the local Cinemas.

Tuberculosis.	New cases during 1944. Male	Female.
Pulmonary.	1	0
Non-Pulmonary.	0	0

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year fortnightly sessions for immunisation were held at the Infant Welfare Clinic, The Vicarage, Barnard Castle.

Diphtheria Immunisation, (continued)

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. Return for the year.	Age under 5 yrs.	Between 5 & 15 yrs.
Number of children resident in the area who received a full course of immunisation during the year.	54	16
Estimated percentage of child population who were considered immunised at 31st December, 1944.	50%	68%

TREATMENT OF SCABIES (Scabies Order 1941)

During the year a total of 44 treatments were given at the A. R. P. Cleansing Station, Dunelm Square.

The number of patients treated who were resident in the Urban District amounted to 20, of this number, the number of separate families involved was 9.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

	Mothers and accompanied children.	Unaccompanied Children.	Nurses Helpers & Teachers.
Number of Evacuees in the area at 31st Dec. 1943	36	16	18
Number of Evacuees in the area at 31st Dec. 1944.	49	1	13
Decrease or increase for year	Plus 13	minus 15	minus 5

HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during the year.
The situation as regards overcrowding cannot at present be estimated owing to the unsettled conditions created by the War.

A quota of 54 new houses to be erected on the Tenfields Housing Estate, has been approved by the Ministry of Health for the first two post-war years.

WATER SUPPLY.

The springs and periodic pumping from the borehole yielded a good and plentiful supply of water throughout the year, the rainfall during the summer months was fairly heavy, which replenished the springs and afforded a constant supply.
During the short periods of threatened shortage in May, June and August, the surplus water from the R.A.F. Station borehole proved very useful. The present pumping capacity of the borehole is approx. 70,000 gallons per day, and approx. 3 million gallons were pumped during the year to augment the normal spring supply.
The quality of the water as shown by analysis was satisfactory.
All dwelling houses within the supply area, are served by pipe supply direct to the houses, with the exception of 2 houses which take their supply by pipe direct to the house from a private spring.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report, which summarises the work done by his department, includes visits and inspections by myself in conjunction with the Inspector with respect to infectious diseases, dairies cowsheds and other cases occurring under the Public Health Acts.

	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-house (foul conditions	1	-	1
and Schools (Structural Defects.	46	-	40
Dairies and Milkshops.	1	-	1
Bakehouses.	1	-	1
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	4	-	4
Waterclosets.	9	-	9
Defective Yard Paving	3	-	3
House (Defective Traps	1	-	1
Drainage (Other Faults.	33	-	33
Water Supply.	10	4	14
Pigsties.	1	-	1
Smoke Nuisances	1	-	1
Other Nuisances	10	-	10
Dustbins	-	29	25
Pail Closets	4	-	4
Totals.	125	33	148

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE - 23 houses and 2 Schools disinfected after infectious disease. 2 sets bedding destroyed.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Throughout the year, conditions remained quiet in the area, and no incidents were recorded.

The Mobile First Aid Unit was disbanded in October. Two Full-time Ambulance Drivers were, however, retained together with three ambulances, which were stationed at the A.R.P. Depot. These ambulances were used for the conveyance of sick and accident cases to hospital.

SCHOOL CLINIC & INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

Weekly sessions of the School Clinic, and fortnightly sessions of the Infant Welfare Clinic continue to be held in Barnard Castle, under the County Council Scheme.

Attendances of school children at the school clinic were moderate.